

Remarks

Claims 1-13 and 22-23 are pending. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of objected-to claim 12. Claim 13 has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Claims 14-21 have previously been withdrawn.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-8 and 22-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,494,136 to Humble in view U.S. Patent No. 6,502,749 to Snyder.

Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Humble in view of Snyder in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,629,019 to Legge *et al.*

Claims 12-13 are objected to for depending on a rejected base claim.

Claims 1

The Examiner kindly stated that claims 12 and 13 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly claim 12 has been amended into claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed allowable. As claims 2-11, 13 and 22-23 depend there from, either directly or through intervening claims, they are likewise believed allowable.

Conclusions

Therefore, for at least the reasons cited above, claims 1-11, 13 and 22-23 are patentable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request that all pending claims be allowed.

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Respectfully submitted,



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